

**Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
The Melrose Georgetown Hotel
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037**

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Tung Thanh Nguyen, Chair

Mary Ann Young Okada, Vice Chair

Michael Byun

Ravi Chaudhary

Lian Cheun

Bill Imada

Kathy Ko Chin

Daphne Kwok

Dee Jay Mailer

Diane Narasaki

Shekar Narasimhan

Maulik Pancholy

Linda Phan

Lorna May Ho Randlett

N. Nina Ahmad (late arrival)

Absent:

Billy Dec

Bessie Chan: Icebreaker Activity on activities and roles of Commissioners

Opening Remarks

Jamie Studley:

- Thank you to Commissioners.
- Diversity of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and importance of data disaggregation.
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) and best practices.
- AAPI students and bullying.
- Discussion:
 - o Outcomes for bullying – enforcement and prevention.
 - o Access to early learning for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI), who traditionally don't have access – budgeting.
 - o Admissions opportunities – AAPIs in Ivy and prestigious universities – pipelines, data disaggregation.
 - o Responses of teachers and administrators to bullying.
 - o Funding structure of Initiative.
 - o Teacher-focused interventions for bullying.

Tung Nguyen:

- Take advantage of having access to people at highest level.
- Thank Daphne for service as outgoing Chair.
- Commission and Initiative had a big part in Affordable Care Act (ACA) signup – hope we can look back in four years and say “this is what we have gotten done.”
- Relationship between Initiative and Commission – analogy – Initiative is the dance, the Commission makes the music.

Kiran Ahuja:

- Excited to have Tung and Mary as new leadership.
- Most efforts from the Initiative and the Commission are based around keeping agencies engaged.
- History of Initiative.
- Need to see follow-up and results.
- The government should be directly linked to the community; right now, we are a middleman.

Tung Nguyen:

- Recognize Kiran for her leadership of the Initiative.

Audrey Buehring:

- Initiative organizational structure and staffing.
- Information on increasing funding.
- Potential partnerships.
- (video)
- Major stakeholder groups.
- On-the-spot elevator speeches.
- Coordination of national groups that do capacity-building to help smaller organizations.

Commission Report & Panel

Chris Harley:

- Commissioner report is a tool to help you remember what issues we need to address, and how to tackle them to make a difference in the community.
- There is also a recommendation section for additional resources and ideas.

Sefa Aina:

- Commission is like a family – close with one another, but experience was not without difficulty.
- Don't be afraid to talk to and ask questions of former Commissioners and WHIAAPI staff. Get to know them and understand the Initiative's vision.
- Understand limitations in WHIAAPI's capacity and capabilities as a Federal agency before you make an ask, but be positive and learn how to use your new position to help the AAPI community and continue the work you have already started while expanding your vision.
- Have fun! Being on the Commission is an amazing opportunity. Understand the Initiative and Commission and how they complement one another.
- Role as PI Commissioner: Pacific Islanders have different access and resources from other groups. How do we empower our communities to make asks and changes?
- As a Commissioner, was able to do some coalition building, bring community leaders together, get PI leaders to join forces with WHIAAPI staff, mobilize and open doors for the community.

Amardeep Singh:

- Be mindful of the playing field and how you choose to do your work. You are an internal connector.
- Initiative can make discussions and partnerships happen but there will not be real change unless there is support.
- It's an internal connector, the position that you have.
- Working with the Regional Interagency Working Group (RIWG) and Interagency Working Group (IWG) is working within the DNA of the Federal government.
- Know your assets and needs and how to present them by humanizing your key asks.

Doua Thor:

- As a Commissioner, focusing on change within the federal government is key.
- Take your expertise and incorporate it into what the Initiative is working on.
- Also need to make communities understand the federal government.

- Positives: Communications, social media.

Daphne Kwok:

- Reminder to be representative of the White House and the President.
- Sometimes things will be confidential or not disclosed to you; please respect this.
- Please be responsive when Initiative staff contacts you.
- Work with local feds, both AAPI and otherwise.
- Let other Commissioners and Initiative staff know about events.
- The first thing that you have to understand is the federal government.
- I also think that the work load on staff is heavy, but I would ask and urge everyone to please respond immediately.
- Follow-up is important. It's most useful when we can actually see what actions have been taken
- Remember to document events and meetings for reports.
- Encourage groups that have few touches.
- Commission meetings happen in-person twice a year, but there are many calls for meetings.

Discussion with Senior Administration Officials and Outgoing Commissioner on Community Engagement

Gautam Raghavan:

- Office of Public Engagement (formerly known as Office of Public Liaison).
 - o Allows community input (meetings, roundtables, etc.)
 - o Communicates President's goals to the community.
- The President's main priorities:
 - o Immigration reform.
 - o Climate change.
 - o Minimum wage.
- Other priorities:
 - o Affordable Care Act.
 - o Language access.
 - o My Brother's Keeper.
 - o Working families.

Shin Inouye:

- Always make sure to check with the Initiative before doing something on your own.

Dilawar A. Syed:

- The role of the Commissioner is exciting and you are able to do meaningful things, but there is a lot of work involved.
- First event to the community – spent a lot of time creating a big event from the ground up to show that the commissioners meant business.
 - o Created agenda, talking points, etc. – became the final product.

- Certainly many things that you'll want to do as Commissioners that you won't be able to accomplish.
- One area that lacked focus was the civil rights front – could have done more.
- Figure out where your interests align with the President's agenda, and balance your interests with the feedback you receive.

Open Discussion and Questions

- What can we do with climate change?
 - o There is a lot that can be done in the Pacific Islands.
- AAPI inclusion in My Brother's Keeper initiative.
- Difficulty of community organizations in explaining issues about the AAPI community.
- Great opportunities to pair and work with other minority communities, such as the black and Latino communities.
- Keep track of success stories.

Community Engagement and Communications Training

- Notebook is internal.
- **Jason Tengco:** Acts as telephone operator. Community engagement. Community asks for certain things, and he makes connections.
- **Rebecca Lee:** Works closely with Shin. Acts as air traffic control. Make sure airplanes (messaging) going out on time to talk about the Initiative and its work.

Commissioner Priority Areas

- **Ravi Chaudhary:** Telling the story of AAPIs; small business.
- **Daphne Kwok:** Disability community; Age 50 and over.
- **Lorna May Ho Randlett:** Youth education access for at-risk youth; economic development; funding base for the community-at-large.
- **Maulik Pancholy:** Anti-bullying; the arts; perceptions/stereotypes; lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender issues.
- **Bill Imada:** Engaging business in becoming the solution; ethnic media and bloggers.
- **Lian Cheun:** Education - detention and in-school climate; work with trauma and healing, especially in refugee communities; capacity-building.
- **Tung Nguyen:** ACA implementation; data disaggregation; immigration reform.
- **Mary Ann Young Okada:** Education and higher education preschool through 16; climate change; RIWG and FRC; veterans' services; knowledge transfer.
- **Linda Phan:** Interpersonal violence – domestic, sexual, and bullying; H1 and H4 visas; capacity-building; RIWG (creating cohesive work with AAPI leaders in the region).
- **Dee Jay Mailer:** Education; sustaining resources with capacity building; following up with NHPI summits and meetings; roundtable meetings for region 9.
- **Michael Byun:** Geographically small AAPI communities (such as those in the Midwest and South); language access; pathway to citizenship; small business; suicide/mental health; healthcare access.
- **Kathy Ko Chin:** Health policy; public-private partnerships; capacity-building; Pacific area jurisdiction; data collection.

- **Diane Narasaki:** Racial disparities; healthcare; language barriers; accountability of federal government.
- **Nina Ahmad:** Economic opportunity; refugee community – double jeopardy and deportation; public-private partnerships.
- **Shekar Narasimhan:** Immigration with a business perspective; reason for less entrepreneurship in the next generation; affordable housing.
- **Bill Imada:** Business; youth development; typhoon Haiyan.

Community Engagement

- Protocol for accepting speaking engagements/event participation – need to clear so give staff as much advance notice as possible.
- Commission-driven versus community-asked responsibilities.
- Need for clearance from White House.
- Clearance process and specific concerns about dealing with the Legislative branch and foreign states – requires even more scrutiny.
- Reminder that Initiative is focused on domestic issues.
- Institutionalizing the work.
- Relaunch and expansion of HEY program - extending to mental health, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), pipeline to public service to engage youth.
- Utilization of RIWG roundtables to work with the community.

Communications

- Website:
 - o White House versus Ed.gov webpages.
 - o TA community resources page on website will be central location of tools. Would love feedback once page is launched.
- Weekly highlights contain agency announcements and funding opportunities.
- Contact list – need to concentrate on effective messaging.
- Initiative circulates various specialized newsletters focusing on economic, education, and youth issues. Will circulate to all Commissioners.
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: restrictions, guidelines, and disclaimers.
- Ways to increase audience and impact of social media posts.
- Ethnic and mainstream media.

Training Breakout Groups

- Commissioners were divided into four groups (AAPI Enrollment Week of Action, Commonsense Immigration Reform, Limited English Proficient Outreach, and Doing Business in Asia) and asked to prepare an engagement strategy that included:
 - o Target audience;
 - o Type of community engagement;
 - o Networks and contacts to leverage;
 - o Communications tactics;
 - o Resources needed;
 - o Follow-up plan; and
 - o Timeline.

Tung adjourns meeting.

Thursday, May 8, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Tung Thanh Nguyen, Chair

Mary Ann Young Okada, Vice Chair

N. Nina Ahmad

Michael Byun

Ravi Chaudhary

Lian Cheun

Kathy Ko Chin

Dee Jay Mailer

Diane Narasaki

Shekar Narasimhan

Maulik Pancholy

Linda Phan

Absent:

Daphne Kwok

Billy Dec

Bill Imada

Lorna May Ho Randlett

North Star Goals and Strategic Plan

Audrey Buehring – Strategic Plan:

- Outreach to AAPI hubs.
- Outreach to emerging AAPI communities.
- North Star goals for each cross-cutting area (data, language access, capacity-building, workforce diversity), developed from agency plans across 20 agencies and offices.

Akil Vohra– Data:

- Goal: data.gov – transparency, interpretation, translation into policy and practice.
- Consolidate all AAPI demographic info across the government into one hub with a specific AAPI portal – hoping to launch in June.
- Data disaggregation.
- Partner with Census.

Courtney Chappell – Language Access:

- IWG language access subcommittee – working with Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Want to create system in which bilingual Federal employees are utilized after a disaster or when there are other specific language needs.
- Develop toolkit, incorporate into work plans and evaluations.
- Enforcement? Health and Human Services? Language needs are not just critical in disaster scenarios.
- Needs will be different in different regions. Something that RIWG can help with.

Doua Thor – Capacity-Building:

- Focus on grants side – Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and HHS.
- Want to provide assistance based on communities' needs.
- Target grants to community.
- Sole-source contracts might be a possibility in the future.
- (Tung Nguyen) – agencies need to be the ones actually doing the capacity-building, but we can provide feedback and work with them to ensure appropriate programming.

Chris Harley– Workforce Diversity:

- Barriers to getting to the Senior Executive Service in the federal government; regular workforce mirrors the civilian workforce.
- Very few NHPI feds – concern that NHPI individuals are not viewing government as a career option.
- Connect NHPIs to internships and other Federal opportunities.
- Build out resources to engage AANAPISIs and create base of those who look at federal service as a way to bring resources back to the islands and communities.
- (Dee Jay Mailer) – Many don't realize that Federal programs exist in the islands.
- Cultural concerns with moving so far away, loss of sense of family – need auxiliary support system.

- Awareness of Federal opportunities.
- Leaning on Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to do analyses – where there is advancement, where there are gaps, and why.

Akil Vohra –AANAPISIs:

- Institutes of higher education that, by definition, have an AAPI population that is 10% or higher. 50% on federal financial aid (considered underserved).
- Many federal agencies don't know about AANAPISIs and do not direct funds to these schools. Get agencies to recognize our communities.
- We have created an AANAPISI newsletter that goes out once per month.
- Committed to six webinars a year. We track which institutions are attending webinar, who is applying, who is getting money.

Tuyet Duong – Business:

- We want to put in long-lasting structures so that small businesses can access resources. Signing memorandum of understanding (MOU) with minority business development agency.
- (Shekar Namasinhan) – What about capital formation?
- We've tried to get the word out re: Small Business Administration (SBA) small business loans. If you have ideas about capital, we've had a number of folks talk about that.
- (Nina Ahmad) – Loan guarantees. SBA programming is tough for people to access.
- (Audrey Buehring) –It's not just about bringing federal resources, it's about philanthropy. We want to bring people together in the room to make those connections on their own.

Tuyet Duong– Immigrant Integration:

- This summer we are focusing on DACA. Right now, AAPIs are underenrolled. 180,000 eligible – 30-40% have applied. Going to have in-language materials.
- Media, especially ethnic media hasn't always understood and provided inaccurate information.
- Roundtable with Department of Homeland Security on Monday.
- (Mary Ann Young Okada) - we have an issue for immigrants who don't meet education/work requirements to migrate to Guam. This is a recent issue. Our Senator has taken it to Congress. They want to deport those who are incarcerated because of capacity.

Chris Harley– Health:

- Health disparities - now that we have ACA and an opportunity to get our community into the Dr. offices – how do we work on these disparities?

Breakout: Policy

Chris Harley— Health:

- Between April 1st and November 15th, there is space to focus on the policy pieces.
- Health disparities - now that we have ACA and an opportunity to get our community into the Dr. offices – how do we work on these disparities? How can we work with agencies with navigator grants, in order to make sure that the eligibility criteria is open enough for access?
- Other policy issues include: Examining training protocol for HHS staff, and focusing on issues raised about ACA in the past six months.
- Commissioners can raise & flesh out policy concerns, ask for in-language resources, work on limited English proficiency (LEP) outreach— ethnic media, Google Hangout, public service announcements (PSA).
- (Tung Nguyen)— Monitor monthly health calls in order to re-engage with long-term strategizing.
- (Ravi Chaudhary)— Should synch up with work of state/local commissions.
- (Nina Ahmad)— Should involve RIWGs on Google Hangouts as well.

Akil Vohra— Data:

- Ask: Identify members for an advisory committee to manage data.gov website.
- Ask: What questions do you want our existing data sources to answer?
- (Nina Ahmad)— How will the data assess housing needs and development?
- Will use datapaloozas and National Civic Day of Hacking in order to engage community on data.
- Will also focus on community training and specific technical assistance for CBOs that are interested in exploring data sets.

Tuyet Duong— Immigrant Integration:

- Will provide a readout of the DHS meeting, and explain the connection between DOJ/DHS.
- Will invite Commissioners to the faith-based White House meeting.
- Will set up a monthly checkpoint.
- Ask: Identify two or three regions to host DACA enrollment tables.
- Ask: Hold viewing parties for DACA info session livestreams.
- There was discussion about ways to explore H1H4 resources.
- (Mary Ann Young Okada)— There should be a focus on Pacific Islander sexual assault laws.
- (Dee Jay Mailer)— Freely associated states are also impacted with Compact of Free Association (COFA).
- (Shekar Narasimhan)— Committed to op-ed in the summer.
- (Linda Phan)— Committed to a conference call with DOJ/DHS on detention policies.
- (Tung Nguyen, Nina Ahmad)— Committed to participating in events, especially in specific states.
- (Dee Jay Mailer, Mary Ann Young Okada, Kathy Ko Chin)— Committed to separate COFA call.

Tuyet Duong – Business:

- Will provide a checkpoint for interested Commissioners every month.

- The Initiative will sign an MOU with the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). MBDA has already signed an MOU with the Asian/Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE).
- The Initiative will create a business boot camp with the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, pilot technical assistance work, and focus on increasing access to capital.
- Connect with corporate affinity groups to share work of the Initiative and build understanding of the AAPI community.
- Asian Pacific Economic Forum is on May 29, and will unfold in bimonthly roundtables.
- (Nina Ahmad)— Committed to help design and plan the process.
- (Ravi Chaudhary)— Interested in small business project with DoD.

Akil Vohra – Education:

- Will provide more information on the ED roundtable with Sec. Duncan. Framing education issues to involve prevention, not just intervention.
- Channeling resources to AANAPISIs should lead to greater workforce diversity.
- AANAPISIs need to be included within the framework of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).
- There are few bullying/harassment complaints within the AAPI community—outreach is needed.
- (Linda Phan)— Should work with early learning education.
- (Maulik Pancholy, Linda Phan)— Committed to bullying/harassment outreach.

Breakouts: Community Engagement and Technical Assistance Commitments

Jason Tengco – Community Engagement:

- There will be separate IWG meeting on PIs and Native Hawaiians.
- First set of follow-up will be from the roundtables, about half of which are already complete.

Doua Thor – Tiers/Levels of TA and Framework:

- Some regions don't need much TA, but they have the desire to work on more specific issues.
- Some regions will request more grants.
- Build agency-CBO relationships to provide more opportunities for the community
- (Linda Phan) – LEAP community – capacity building program.
- You can be a convener.
- Education: There needs to be more support – have role models to help peer-to-peer communication.

Structure

- Work with Jason on bullying/harassment.
- (Maulik Pancholy) – Could do a PSA, celebrity PSAs on bullying and harassment
- Speaking at schools to build a framework.
- Use stopbullying.gov

- Establish this framework early – at elementary when parents are more involved in children’s education.

Pacific Islanders

- What is most helpful with follow-up?
- Encourage follow-up from community.
- Community has the financial resources, but they don’t know how to push it out.
- IWG has been created to create comprehensive plans for this purpose.
- Develop follow-up plan from roundtables.
- Don’t separate the Native Hawaiian issues from the PI issues.

Community Engagement and TA

- (Diane Narasaki) – Happy to convene a regional meeting in Seattle. Concerned about not being looped into the meeting. Event is being planned on short notice. Need to strengthen government outreach. Interested in how the PI groups are being organized in other parts of the government.
- (Mary Ann Young Okada) – Retired military folks are setting up groups who are really structured and organized. There are immigrant groups who have left b/c of school or work in middle states.
- **Kiran Ahuja:** Please share contacts.
- **Doua Thor:** Happy to have individual talks if needed.
- **Jason Tengco:** Help establish connections for convenings.

Opportunities for Engagement with Federal Agencies

- Partnership with a separate entity from a Federal agency
- Mentorships
- Engaging with the RIWG through issues
- Bring foundations together to support the gap where Federal agencies can’t support financially.
- (Nina Ahmad)
 - o Public Private Partnerships model would fit under the TA bucket.
 - o Problem is a lack of investment in the AAPI community.
 - o Engage in discussion about how to move forward.
 - o Talk to the community to ask them about what they need.
 - o See where there are gaps – e.g., data disaggregation needs .
- (Michael Byun)
 - o Roundtable follow-up, particularly Chicago.
 - o Ohio summit recommendations were from other regions, not just Ohio.
- (Shekar Narasimhan)
 - o Convening idea: Microfinancing – go to Treasury to get the data about microfinance involvement in the community.
 - o If there is a gap, create a convening to bring together communities who can use it and organizations that are already doing this work.
 - o NCAPA can help with this effort.
 - o Bring what exists, the government entity that can lead the effort, and then create an action plan.

- Smaller grants and smaller loans focus - why is our community lagging in the usage of these resources?
 - Can we think of interesting economic models?
 - Non-profits are strapped for cash.
 - Think of creative ways to partner to create revenue streams.
 - Generate revenue with assistance from government.
 - Bring in experts who can talk about microfinance.
 - Work with a national infrastructure that will take on an effort like the above.
- **Language Access**
 - Michael Byuns's agency created a model to partner.
 - Multi-regional outreach which can benefit people across the country.
 - Create a resources where questions can be asked.

Regional Interagency Working Group

- (Michael Byun)
 - Some regions are doing well.
 - Invest energy in Region 5.
 - Members in Region 5 are interested organizing regionally with CBOs.
 - No strategy to connect regions yet.
 - There should be direct communications with federal agencies in Region 5.
 - Share best practices with regions that are not doing as well.
- How do we reach out to separate states and where do we do that?
- There are models we can pull from that work well – region-to-region communication.
- (Tung Nguyen) - Oakland roundtable – follow-up needed.
- (Ravi Chaudhary)
 - Region 3 – looking for guidance from WHIAAPI and commissioners.
 - Engage the region members as stakeholders.
 - Want to know how to connect with the efforts they are interested in promoting.
 - More collaboration is better.
 - Address the region 3 needs – Jason mentioned an ask from VA Beach for the military community, Filipino-American community.
 - They wanted more action rather than another summit or meeting.

Closing Remarks

Tung Nguyen:

- Thank WHIAAPI staff.
- Reminder that Commissioners now represent AAPIs nationally.
- Quarterly calls in August, November, and February.
- First full week of May 2015 – please block out.
- Bessie will send out follow-up email next week with materials.
- We often have call on first Tuesday afternoon on health issues (currently 4 PM Eastern, 1 PM Pacific)

Kiran Ahuja:

- Meeting has brought new energy – Initiative has waited a long while for new Commission.
- We need to prioritize and move the needle forward.
- We need tangible results to show what we've done on behalf of the AAPI community.

Tung adjourns meeting – 3:28 PM

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tung Nguyen', written in a cursive style.

6/3/14

Dr. Tung Nguyen, Chair, President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs